



OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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NEWS RELEASE

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Critical Policing and Criminal Justice Reforms Cross Finish Line

Leaders urge more work in next year's session

SALEM – Listening to the voices of Oregonians across the state who demanded reform of policing and criminal justice systems, the Legislature responded by passing more than two dozen policy bills and funding new programs to begin transforming these systems to ensure justice, accountability and equity for communities of color.

“Transforming how law enforcement operates in Oregon will not happen overnight, nor will behavior change simply because we pass good legislation,” House Speaker Tina Kotek (D-Portland) said. “Yet, we can strengthen accountability and give clear direction for the changes we want to see. These bills are long overdue, and we anticipate more work ahead in next year’s session.”

“We built the necessary infrastructure for our law enforcement agencies and their oversight systems to be responsive to the community’s needs,” said Rep. Janelle Bynum (D-East Portland/Happy Valley), chair of the House Committee on Judiciary. “We heard Oregonians when they said that the power of policing comes from community. This session, the community rebuilt policing. We began with an ambitious agenda, and we finished strong. We also realize that our work is not yet done, and we intend on bringing forth more bills in the interim session. For now, I’m focused on seeing how communities, cities and counties will build locally. We’ve given them the keys, now it’s time for them to drive.”

One piece of unfinished business is House Bill 2002, which did not emerge from the budget committee at the end of the session. The bill was a comprehensive, community-driven approach to reform public safety policies and procedures, such as interrupting low-level interactions with

police that have led to dangerous or deadly encounters for BIPOC Oregonians and individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

“Seeing House Bill 2002 not move forward was far and away my biggest disappointment of this session,” Kotek said. “I’m so appreciative of the community-driven process that was behind the bill. The discussion will continue, and I look forward to working with the coalition to bring the bill back in next year’s session.”

Key funding pieces from House Bill 2002 did advance, including a \$10 million special purpose appropriation for culturally-specific justice reinvestment programs, \$4 million to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission for restorative justice grants, \$1.5 million for the Reimagine Safety Fund, and \$10 million for Senate Bill 620 to backfill local dollars resulting from the elimination of the fees that counties charge folks who are in post-prison supervision.

Below is a summary of police and criminal justice reform measures that passed during the 2021 session:

Public Defense Reform (HB 2003)

Expands the Public Defense Services Commission to include individuals who have previously received services from public defenders. Modernizes contracting requirements by directing the commission to adopt new compensation, caseload, and oversight requirements.

DPSST Training and Accreditation (HB 2162)

Requires law enforcement agencies to achieve accreditation, adds public members to the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) board, requires equity training of all officers, and requires DPSST to revoke or suspend an officer’s certification if they have engaged in certain actions, like domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Post-Prison Supervision Eligibility Expansion (HB 2172)

Expands access to Oregon’s statewide post-prison supervision discharge program. Eligible persons must have substantially complied with the terms of their supervision.

Restorative Justice Grants (HB 2204)

Pairs with a \$4 million funding package and directs the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to award grants for restorative justice programs. Eligible programs must show collaboration with affected parties, district attorneys, defense, and more.

Military Surplus Equipment Ban (HB 2481)

Prohibits law enforcement agencies from receiving certain military surplus equipment from the federal government and requires approved purchases to be noticed and signed off on by local governing bodies.

Airway Training (HB 2513)

Requires officers to be trained on airway and circulatory anatomy to avoid seriously injuring or killing someone while trying to restrain them and to contact emergency medical services if a restrained person is having a medical emergency.

Standards for Private Licensing Security Agencies (HB 2527)

Brings private security into the professional workforce by requiring licensure through the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Trauma-Informed Training (HB 2575)

Provides grants to develop local trauma-informed training to inform future statewide training through Department of Public Safety Standards and Training.

Munition Regulation (HB 2928)

Regulates the use of chemical incapacitants, impact projectiles, sound devices and strobe lights by law enforcement agencies and makes further clarifications to the use of tear gas.

Duty to Intervene (HB 2929)

Requires officers who witness misconduct of fellow officers to report the violation within 72 hours to a direct supervisor, a superior officer in the chain of command, or the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training and requires investigations to occur within specified time frames.

Arbitration Standards (HB 2930)

Establishes a process to adopt statewide standards of conduct and discipline for officers and establishes a statewide evidentiary standard for arbitrators' decisions for misconduct cases.

Use of Force Reports (HB 2932)

Requires all law enforcement agencies in the state to report to the national use-of-force database and requires the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to regularly analyze this data and report back to the Legislature on its findings.

Background Checks (HB 2936)

Requires the DPSST to standardize background check processes through a statewide system to identify applicants for law enforcement positions who have participated in hate groups, racial supremacist organizations, or militant groups.

Bias Crimes Training (HB 2986)

Requires the DPSST to ensure that officers are trained to investigate, identify and report crimes motivated by bias based on the perceived gender of the victim.

Doxing Prevention (HB 3047)

Provides the ability to sue someone who releases personal information if that person knowingly disseminates information with the intent to provoke stalking, harassment, or injury (aka "doxing").

Unlawful Assembly (HB 3059)

Clarifies archaic statutory language directing how local authorities can declare an “unlawful assembly.”

Misconduct Records (HB 3145)

Requires law enforcement agencies to report officer discipline when an economic sanction is imposed.

Interference with a Peace Officer Reform (HB 3164)

Aligns statute with recent Oregon Supreme Court rulings to limits the use of the charge of “interfering with a peace officer” to instances where an individual knowingly or intentionally interferes with an officer, thereby reducing its overuse in arrests for non-criminal behavior.

Booking Photos (HB 3273)

Restricts the way booking photos can be released and used publicly.

Officer Uniforms and Identification (HB 3355)

Specifies what identification must be worn by officers during crowd management situations and how the public can access this information.

Access to Police Reports (SB 204)

Allows civilian oversight boards of local law enforcement agencies to access the Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS).

False Promises Youth Interviews (SB 418)

Prohibits coercion and other forms of deceit by law enforcement when interviewing youth under certain circumstances.

Expungement (SB 575)

Removes barriers to expungement by providing for automatic expunction for certain juvenile records.

Post-Prison Supervision Fee Elimination (SB 620)

Eliminates post-prison supervision fees so individuals can focus on recovery and reentry.

Civilian Oversight Agencies (SB 621)

Affirms Measure 26-217, which Portlanders overwhelmingly passed last November.

Sentencing Reconsideration (SB 819)

Upon the consent of a district attorney and an incarcerated person, provides that a court may resentence an individual if the current sentence no longer advances the interest of justice.

Alternative Programs for Persons in Custody (SB 836)

Ensures incarcerated persons have access to alternative programs while incarcerated and that notice be given prior to suspending or terminating a program.

Anti-Slavery Constitutional Amendment (SJR 10)

Asks the people to vote to modernize the Oregon constitution through an amendment to abolish a provision that allows involuntary servitude and slavery.

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